



NSCB News Release



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TIP FROM CONSUMER LEADS TO ARREST OF 'TOP 10 MOST WANTED' UNLICENSED CONTRACTOR

HENDERSON, Nev. – The Nevada State Contractors Board (NSCB) applauds the efforts of one local woman who contacted NSCB Jan. 29, after coming face-to-face with unlicensed contractor and known traveler James Gregg. Gregg was placed on NSCB's 'Top 10 Most Wanted' list Jan. 8, after reports alleged Gregg was initiating a roofing scam in and around the Reno area. The Reno Justice Court issued one felony and one misdemeanor warrant for his arrest for obtaining money under false pretense and contracting without a license.

The Nevada consumer was visiting a family member in Arizona when Gregg approached the family's home to solicit roofing services. Having recalled seeing Gregg's picture on a southern Nevada news station, the consumer knew he was a scammer and declined his services. Following the interaction, the consumer was able to identify the location of Gregg and immediately contacted NSCB with the information. Investigators quickly provided the Chandler Police Department the information on Gregg's whereabouts, and Gregg was arrested the same day.

"This case is a prime example of how information conveyed by the Board through the media not only empowers consumers to make educated decisions, but equips them with the knowledge to protect themselves from becoming victimized by unscrupulous contractors," said NSCB Executive Officer Margi A. Grein. "We applaud the efforts of this consumer to take immediate action resulting not only in Gregg's arrest, but the prevention of harm to other homeowners."

Gregg is being held in Chandler, Ariz. on a misdemeanor warrant for non-related traffic offenses. Gregg also has a felony warrant out for his arrest in Mesa, Ariz., for defrauding a senior with the same roofing scam.

Gregg was known for targeting seniors while traveling through neighborhoods. He would approach the victims, claim to notice that certain roofing repairs were needed, perform substandard work on the home upon the homeowner's consent, and receive payment before leaving the property. Gregg is alleged to have scammed homeowners multiple times, returning to "check on the work" and then convincing the homeowner additional repairs are needed.

Red flag warnings of unscrupulous contractors

- Unable to provide a business card/contact information/contractor's license number
- Contractor has "extra" materials from a previous job
- Contractor solicits work because they noticed issues with your home
- Contractor asks to perform a free inspection, followed by a laundry list of repairs that need to be made
- Contractor does not want to put the agreement in writing
- Contractor demands cash payment

Scams such as this have been frequently used by "travelers," or individuals who move rapidly throughout the states, soliciting to perform work for homeowners, receiving payment prior to the work being performed, and then leaving town before doing so. They often target elderly victims and are known to perform door-to-door solicitations.

Homeowners should report all suspicious activity or unlicensed contracting activity to **NSCB's Unlicensed Contractor Hotline: (702) 486-1160 or (775) 850-7838.**

Common scams to be cautious of:

- Door-to-door solicitations
- High-pressure sales tactics
- Demands for cash payment
- Demands for a large down payment

Tips for hiring contractors:

1. Only hire licensed contractors.
2. Check the contractor's license number by utilizing our Online Contractor Search at www.nscb.nv.gov
3. Get three references and review past work.
4. Get at least three bids.
5. Get a written contract and do not sign anything until you completely understand the terms.
6. For pool contracts, pay 10% down or \$1,000 - whichever is less, if a deposit is required.
7. Don't let payments get ahead of the work. Keep a record of all payments.
8. Don't make a final payment until you are satisfied with the job.
9. Don't pay cash.
10. Keep a job file of all papers relating to your project.

Additional information for consumers is available on NSCB's website at www.nscb.nv.gov

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MEDIA NOTE: .jpg of Gregg is attached for media use. Consumer mentioned in the story wishes to remain anonymous and is not available for interview.